EPI Update for Friday, March 8, 2013 Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology (CADE) lowa Department of Public Health (IDPH)

Items for this week's EPI Update include:

- Norovirus in long term care and healthcare facilities
- Norovirus training
- CDC Vital Signs: Carbapenem-Resistant Enterobacteriaceae (CRE)
- Meeting announcements and training opportunities

Norovirus in long term care and healthcare facilities

Recently, public health has investigated several norovirus outbreaks in long term care (LTC) facilities and in clinics/healthcare facilities.

IDPH recommends the following for healthcare providers:

- Staff at both long term care and all healthcare facilities (hospitals and clinics)
 who have been ill with symptoms of norovirus should not return to duties for 48
 hours after vomiting and diarrhea have stopped because they are still infectious
 and can spread disease to patients and staff.
- Patients and LTC residents who have been ill with symptoms of norovirus should be placed in Contact Precautions until 48 hours after their vomiting and diarrhea have stopped.
- Washing with soap and water is crucial to remove norovirus from hands as alcohol sanitizers have not been shown to be effective for killing norovirus.

For more information, visit

www.idph.state.ia.us/CADE/DiseaseIndex.aspx?disease=Norovirus.

Norovirus training

Healthcare professionals are encouraged to take CDC's one-hour online norovirus training, which covers all aspects of norovirus health professionals need to know. It is available as a webcast, slides, audio, or transcript. A variety of educational credits are offered, including CME, CNE, CEU, CEHC, ACPE and AAVSB/RACE. For more information on *Stopping Norovirus In Its Tracks*, visit http://emergency.cdc.gov/coca/calls/2013/callinfo_011713.asp.

CDC Vital Signs: Carbapenem-Resistant Enterobacteriaceae (CRE)

This week, CDC released a "Vital Signs" article further describing the increase in CRE cases, and what the public, patients and health care providers can do to stop the infections. This is a follow-up to the CDC advisory concerning increased reports of CRE a couple weeks ago.

To view the article, visit www.cdc.gov/vitalsigns/HAI/CRE/index.html.

Meeting announcements and training opportunitiesNone

Have a healthy and happy week! Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology lowa Department of Public Health 800-362-2736